

26 June 2020



Industrial Relations Victoria
Via email: irv.info@dpc.vic.gov.au

To Industrial Relations Victoria,

RE: PORTABLE LONG SERVICE SCHEME – CONSULTATION ON PERMANENT REGULATIONS

Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC) welcomes the ongoing commitment of the Victorian Government to the successful implementation and operation of the Portable Long Service Benefits Scheme.

VTHC has been advocating for Portable Long Service Leave (PLSL) for a long period across several industries. PLSL is a key mechanism in addressing some of the inequities created for Victorian workers by the continued growth of insecure work. As such VTHC takes this opportunity to reiterate the need for all Victorian workers to have access to Portable Long Service Leave.

This short submission is made in support of submissions from affiliated unions. VTHC supports the intent of the changes made in the draft permanent regulations to clarify ambiguous language and provide certainty to both Victorian workers and employers.

VTHC understands that a number of affiliated unions will provide more substantial comments on technical matters that are of concern within the draft permanent regulations and encourages Industrial Relations Victoria (IRV) to work with those unions to make the necessary changes. Nothing in this submission should be taken to supersede the submissions of those unions.

The final permanent regulations for the Portable Long Service Benefits Scheme should be underpinned by key principles. The scheme should:

- Be fair and easy to understand
- Provide fair and easy systems for workers to access entitlements
- Have a broad scope to ensure no workers are unfairly excluded
- Guarantee that workers will not lose any entitlements already accrued under their current long service leave schemes.

VTHC looks forward to continuing to work with IRV and affiliated unions to ensure the successful implementation and operation of the Portable Long Service Benefits Scheme.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luke Hilakari", is written over a horizontal line.

Luke Hilakari
Ref: lh:ts 77.211

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